

(III) POTTEN END

A number of character areas can be distinguished within the Potten End Conservation Area; the largest area is The Green, and the group of buildings forming The Back, The Square and The Front. Linking these two areas is Church Road.

1. The Green. The triangular village green has Martins Pond as its central feature, accompanied by groups of trees and rustic seats. The only building on the Green itself is a bus shelter built of timber and tiles. There are two small areas of car parking, one opposite the village hall, surfaced with tarmac, and one opposite the Martins Pond public house, surfaced with gravel. These two areas are small enough not to constitute a significant visual intrusion into the large area of The Green, which is a valuable visual and wildlife resource. A detracting factor at present are rusty railings which seem to serve no useful purpose.

A small group of buildings on the south side of The Green, composed of the Red Lion, Martins, Balshaw Farm and Evergreens, makes a valuable contribution to the visual amenity of the area. Another group of significant buildings is located on the north side of The Green: the parish church (listed Grade II) and the 20th century village hall.

2. Church Road. Here the important features that contribute to visual amenity are the group of fir trees in the corner of the school grounds, and at the other end of the road the Post Office and house adjoining.
3. The Back, The Square and The Front. This is a very discrete and distinct group of houses, most of which are terraced and date from the early 19th century. At present they retain their original character to a great extent, with few signs of inappropriate modern features being inserted or tacked on. The listed Baptist Chapel and its adjoining churchyard form a centre-piece of this distinctive area. The recreation ground to the west of Plough Lane is an important open space, although somewhat marred by visual clutter such as telegraph poles and wirescape.

DRAFT ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

1. Replace chain-link fence outside the village hall.
2. Bollards instead of poles in Plough Lane.
3. Replace ugly rusty railings by the pond.
4. Replace old red litter bins with a more suitable type.
5. Replace existing modern telephone kiosks with red Gilbert Scott telephone kiosks.
6. Clear up waste ground at rear of The Plough.

7. Improve the visual aspect of street lighting: the existing lamps on telegraph poles outside the village hall and in Plough Lane are unsatisfactory in a conservation area.